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PATENT APPLICATION  
Mo-7303US  
NRC P57IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION OF )  
LEONID N. SHEKHTER, ET AL ) GROUP NO.: 1742  
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/849,717 ) EXAMINER: G.P. WYSZOMIERSKI  
FILED: MAY 4, 2001 )  
TITLE: METALOTHERMIC REDUCTION )  
OF REFRACTORY METAL )  
OXIDES )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In support of the enclosed Request for Continued Examination, Applicants hereby submit this Preliminary Amendment. Applicants address issues raised in the Office Action dated June 9, 2003. Please amend the application as follows. A separate Petition for Extension of Time and separate letter for Submission of Proposed Drawing Amendment are being submitted simultaneously herewith.

(PRIVATE) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 20, 2003

Date

Diderico van Eyl Reg. No. 38,641

Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative

Signature

October 20, 2003

Date